

2028 Jones

1940/8c.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS. 26th August, 1940.

Lack of rain prejudices the rural outlook; otherwise the economic background is generally strong. Full industrial activity was restored in July when employment was greatest of any mid-year month. Building remains fairly active. Domestic trade shows no major change except for depression in the motor trade. Petrol rationing (revised) may begin Oct. 1. Abnormal withdrawals from savings banks apparently have ceased.

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PART I PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

SEASON. Useful rain fell on the North Coast last week, but generally the dry weather of the past several months remains unbroken. Crops and pastures are steadily deteriorating, and in critical condition over large sections of the State. It is still not too late for bountiful rains, followed by mild weather, to assure summer pasturage and retrieve a considerable part of the failing wheat, but the need of rain is urgent everywhere.

EXPORT PRICES AND EXTERNAL TRADE CONDITIONS. On Aug. 19, the appointment of Sir John Latham as the first Australian Minister to Japan was announced. This step may have an important bearing upon the political and economic relations of Australia and Japan.

The index number of Australian export prices in Australian currency (Commonwealth Bank) is steady at 132 per cent. of the 1927 average and 22 per cent. higher than immediately prior to the war. It is improbable, however, that export income in 1940-41 will be as great as in 1939-40; rural production will show effects of the adverse seasonal conditions of recent months, and marketing opportunities are circumscribed by the loss of all trade with the Continent.

Britain's export drive is under the same handicap. The Export Credit Guarantee Dept. now issues policies covering risks of changes in freight insurance and loss in transshipment or by frustrated voyage. Exports in July were £31.2 m. in 1940 and £40.4 m. in 1939 and in June, 1940, £36.2 m. Though exports to North and South America have increased progressively and reached a record in July, the increase was insufficient to offset the loss of trade with Europe. In the seven months ended July exports were £280.6 m. in 1940 and £276.6 m. in 1939 and imports £698.5 m. and £525.4 m. respectively. British stock exchange indices have risen, influenced by successes in air warfare and growing military strength; on Aug. 23 industrial share values were 27 per cent. above the low point of June 26, and the gilt edged market had firmed. Evidence of closer Anglo-American co-operation also encouraged investors.

American business is preparing for a stimulus from rearmament. The heavy industries are expanding production. A number of large extensions of plant for aircraft and munitions manufacture have been announced. Trading on the New York stock exchange has been exceptionally light without material change in industrial share values. On Aug. 15 the Banking Committee of the House of Representatives approved an increase of \$500 m. in capital of the Import-Export Bank for finance of Latin American borrowers and granted the R.F.C. power to borrow an additional \$1,000 m. for national defence.

CURRENCY RELATIONSHIPS. Throughout the past week the free market quotation of sterling exchange in New York was maintained at approximate parity with the British official sterling-dollar rate (\$4.03 to £stg.) This is regarded as an indication of the efficacy of recent steps taken to bring foreign exchange under complete control.

On Aug. 22 a British Order in Council prohibited the import of Bank of England Notes into the United Kingdom. Hoards estimated to total almost £20 m. are believed to be held in enemy-occupied countries. The step has been taken to prevent Germany benefiting from these hoards. In the United States the prohibition becomes effective on Aug. 27 and holders have hastened to sell notes to the banks. They are obtaining \$3.40 to the £1 compared with as low as \$2.50 in recent months. The negotiation of Bank of England notes within the sterling area is unaffected.

/Balances.....

PART I. (Continued).

Balances and securities "frozen" in the United States by executive action are estimated to amount to about \$1,400 m. At the end of March, 1940 short term foreign credits amounted to \$3,052m., and foreign held American securities to \$2,815m. British holdings of negotiable stocks and bonds in the United States at the end of March, 1940 amounted to \$735m.

From a Japanese source it is announced that £200,000 of the silver hitherto sequestered in the French Concession at Tientsin is being transferred to Japan and will be used for the purchase of Australian flour.

WOOL. Under favourable conditions shearing is proceeding rapidly. Indications are that in New South Wales the number of sheep to be shorn will be much the same as in 1939-40 but the clip will be lighter.

Appraisements began in Sydney on Aug. 19, 1940. About 750,000 bales are expected to be dealt with by Christmas.

The British Government has agreed to acquire the bulk of South African wool for this season at 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. (stg.) a lb. In the open market, with British support by agreed purchases, South Africa secured in 1939-40 an average price of SA. 11.75d. (approx Aust. 14.7d.) which was about Al. 25d. a lb. above that paid for the Australian clip (Aust. 13.4375d.) In July 1940, however the average value was SA. 10.25d. (Aust. 12.3d.) a lb. Britain has also acquired the Chilean clip (about 110,000 bales) and the exportable surplus of Eire (about 33,000 bales).

British woollen manufactures have not benefited from the cutting-off of Continental competition as much as was hoped. For wool and woollen goods prices have risen 55 per cent. in Britain, but only 11 per cent. in the United States and this discrepancy is not wholly offset by the depreciation of sterling. Competition with United States and Japanese exporters is rendered difficult. In Bradford civilian business is scarce but there is still much work on Government account.

WHEAT. Unless bountiful rain falls before the end of the month and is succeeded by mild weather and timely rain till maturity, the 1940-41 harvest in New South Wales is likely to be much below the average for recent years. Conditions are similar in the other principal wheat producing States.

In Chicago futures quotations (Sept. options) touched the lowest point of this year (68 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents a bus.) on Aug. 16 and were quoted at 69 $\frac{5}{8}$ cents on August 24.

Except that wheat for export is now more difficult to place conditions in the wheat trade in Australia are unchanged. Local trade is quiet. Some enquiry for flour for the East was made at the end of last week. The second advance on No. 2 and No. 3 wheat pools (4d. a bus.) was paid to growers on Aug. 16. The Wheat Board's prices remain at (per bushel, f.o.r., Sydney) 4s. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for bagged wheat and 3s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for silo wheat for local consumption and small export orders. The price of flour (including tax) is unchanged at £12.10s. a ton.

/PRICES.....

PART I - (Continued)

PRICES OF WHEAT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

<u>Bulk Wheat.</u>	Seasons ended Nov.			July.		August
	1931-35.	1937.	1939.	1939.	1940.	24, 1940.
	Shillings and pence per bushel.					
Ex Trucks, Sydney	2 9½	5 3	2 5	2 3½	4 0(b)	3 11¼(b)
Equiv., ex farm at country siding (a)	2 2½	4 8	1 9½	1 8	(c)	(c)

- (a) Exclusive of bounty. (b) Prices for sale for local consumption.
(c) Advances already made give farmers about 2s.5d. (not) a bushel.
Further payments depend on realisations for the whole 1939-40 crop.

BUTTER. Production of butter in New South Wales is very low - about one-third below the usual low average for the time of the year. Practically all dairying districts need rain urgently: unless dry conditions are relieved soon a normal spring flush will not occur.

Butter is coming in from other States to supplement local production. The price of butter remains at 158s.8d. per cwt. (whole-sale) in the three Eastern States.

Deferred pay for the half year ended June, 1940 to suppliers of cream to certain North Coast factories has been fixed at 1¼d. a lb. of butter made. This compares with (for the corresponding half-year) 1.06d. in 1939, 1½d. in 1938 and 1d. in 1937.

Throughout Australia dairying conditions are mostly unfavourable and unless the season improves there may be difficulty in supplying the 100,000 tons which the British Government has contracted to buy in 1940-41.

Butter prices compare as under:-

PRICES OF BUTTER - EXPORT AND LOCAL.

	Average - Seasons ended June.				Aug. 23.	
	1929-32.	1933-36.	1937-39.	1939.	1939.	1940.
	Shillings (Aust.) per cwt.					
Export Parity	135	88	122	123	129	137(a)
Local Sales.	173	134	150	159	159	159

(a) Agreed price for British purchase, 1939-40 and 1940-41.

METALS. In London opinion is divided regarding the prospect of higher prices to Empire copper producers who are under contract to the British Ministry of Supply. Some authorities believe that clauses providing for adjustment to changes in costs assures higher prices for producers of all base metals.

The fixed maximum prices (delivered to buyer, duty paid) of the British Ministry of Supply are unchanged at (per ton, sterling):-

Electrolytic
Copper.

£62. 0. 0

Lead
Soft Foreign.

£25. 0. 0.

Spelter.

£25.15. 0

In the open market in London the price of tin has declined throughout the month and on Aug. 23 was £260.10s. per ton; below the average for the past three months, but higher than in any earlier month of the war, and 13 per cent. higher than in August, 1939. The market for silver is firm and the price (1s.11¼d. an oz.) is 30 per cent. above the average for August, 1939.

/PART II.

PART II FINANCE AND TRADE.

WHOLESALE TRADE. Sales by registered traders recorded under the Sales Tax Acts in June, 1940 increased in amount by 14.8 per cent. in comparison with June, 1939 and in the half year were 4.3 per cent. greater this year than last year. The greater part of the increase may be attributed to direct sales from factories to the Commonwealth of materials for the war. The figures do not reveal the extent to which private consumption may have been affected by the war. However, motor trade has decreased, and in retail trade it would appear that although the value of sales has increased a little the turnover is probably not quite as great as a year ago.

Employment with wholesale firms increased fairly rapidly from 1932 to 1937 but over the past three years has shown little movement. In July, 1940 persons employed with wholesale firms with ten or more employees numbered 25,891 compared with 25,356 in July, 1939.

WHOLESALE TRADE, NEW SOUTH WALES.

	Sales by Registered Traders.			Persons Employed by wholesalers with Ten or more Employees.	
	Month of June	Half-year ended June.	Increase over Jan.-June of Preceding Year.	June.	July.
	£ million.	£ million	Per cent.	No.	No.
1932	9.61	58.91	(-) 2.7	17,639 (June, 1933)	
1937	14.98	91.74	18.9	24,808	24,508
1938	14.98	94.39	2.9	25,212	25,169
1939	14.88	93.69	(-) 0.7	25,212	25,356
1940	17.07	97.74	4.3	25,871	25,891

Minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

RETAIL TRADE. After increasing about 35 per cent. in the five years 1933 to 1938 the number of persons employed by retail firms with ten or more employees in New South Wales has shown little change over the past two years. In July, 1940 these firms had 52,112 employees compared with 52,833 in July, 1939. Comparative particulars of employment in retail trade in July are:-

EMPLOYMENT IN RETAIL TRADE - NEW SOUTH WALES.

July	Sydney.		Newcastle District.	Country Towns.	Total, N.S.W.	
	City.	Suburbs.			Number.	Increase in last 12 mths.
	Persons employed - firms with 10 or more emps.					Per cent.
1936	34,260	3,845	2,285	8,127	48,517	Not available
1937	36,201	4,050	2,384	8,625	51,260	5.7
1938	37,842	3,969	2,534	8,767	53,112	3.6
1939	37,601	4,051	2,581	8,599	52,833	- 0.5
1940	37,164	3,988	2,580	8,380	52,112	- 1.0

CITY SHOPS. Percentage comparisons compiled by the Retail Traders' Research Bureau show that in June quarter, 1940 the value of sales was 6.3 per cent. greater than in June Qr., 1939. However, allowing for the higher prices of many imported articles (piece goods, fancy goods, stationery, etc.) it is doubtful if the volume of retailers' turnover has been fully maintained. Consumers as a whole have not tried to accumulate heavy private stocks except in the initial rush buying soon after the war began. The money value of sales in large shops in Sydney in recent three-monthly periods compared with a year earlier showed increases as follow:-

/Increase.....

PART II (Continued)

1939-40.

Three months ended -

	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May.</u>	<u>June.</u>
Increase %	7.8	8.1	5.6	3.8	6.2	3.2	5.5	4.5	6.3

In June 1940 (24 days) the value of sales was 2.1 per cent. less than in June, 1939 (25 days). The more notable changes were increases in piece goods (10.7%) and fancy goods (7%) and decreases in sports and travel goods (18.2%) furniture, etc. (8.6%) and hardware (5.9%).

The average number of employees in these shops was slightly (0.3%) greater and the amount paid in salaries and wages was 1.2 per cent. less than in June, 1939.

SAVINGS BANKS. Savings deposits decreased heavily in May and June, 1940 but in July there was a small increase (£24,000), although in each year 1936 to 1939 there was a decrease (of £273,000 in 1939). However, the amount on deposit (£82,135,000) was £5,066,000 less than at July 31, 1939 mainly due to the decrease of £4,945,000 in May and June, 1939.

In July, too, there was a small increase (1,621) in the number of open savings accounts, and this and the increase in deposits may mean that the recent abnormal movement is at an end.

The industrial and business background is generally favourable to saving, but substantial savings are being diverted to war purposes; war savings certificates to the face value of about £1.75 m. were purchased in New South Wales during July, 1940.

SAVINGS BANKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

	Depositors' Balances.		Increase in Deposits.		Number of Open Savings Accounts.	
	At 30th June.	At 31st July.	In. July.	In year ended July.	At 30th June.	At 31st July.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	000	000
1932	69,811	71,648	- 475	1,667	Not available	
1937	81,952	81,949	- 3	2,213	1,218	1,228
1938	86,016	85,953	- 63	4,004	1,288	1,298
1939	87,474	87,201	- 273	1,248	1,330	1,338
1940	82,111	82,135	24	5,066	1,313	1,314

Minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

PART III. INDUSTRIES.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES. By July the retardation of industrial activity caused by the coal strike (March 11 to May 17) had been mostly overcome, though a shortage of iron and steel necessitated short working in some large factories. There were approximately 239,900 persons employed in factories in New South Wales in the middle week of July, 1940. This number was 15,300 greater than a year before, representing an increase of 14,200 since mid-May 1940 nearly equalling the decrease of 15,600 from March to May during the coal stoppage. More persons are engaged in manufacturing than ever before at this period of the year; the index number of factory employment in July, 1940 was 33 per cent. above the peak pre-depression average in 1928-29:

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

	<u>June,</u> <u>1933.</u>	<u>July,</u> <u>1937.</u>	<u>July,</u> <u>1938.</u>	<u>July,</u> <u>1939.</u>	<u>Mar.,</u> <u>1940.</u>	<u>May,</u> <u>1940.</u>	<u>July,</u> <u>1940.</u>
Persons (000)	139.7	216.4	225.2	224.6	241.3	225.7	239.9
Index No. 1928-29=100	77	120	125	124	133	125	133

The Trade Union Advisory Panel, constituted to help organise industry and labour for defence is now functioning. The Ministry of Munitions is finding skilled labour hard to secure and an acute shortage of toolmakers and first class engineering machinists, and has been given priority over other services in these technicians.

The number of persons employed in various manufacturing industries by enterprises with ten or more employees was as under:-

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES WITH TEN OR MORE EMPLOYEES - N.S.W.

Middle week of -	Lime, Cement Bricks, Glass &c.	Chemicals, etc.	Industrial Metals.	Textile & Clothing.	Food and Drink.	Wood-Working etc.	Paper & Printing.	Rubber.
	Number of persons employed - thousands.							
July, 1935	8.01	5.34	44.25	30.69	22.56	8.26	11.94	2.70
" 1938	11.62	6.72	65.14	37.71	26.92	10.70	14.64	3.74
" 1939	11.64	7.19	61.86	36.62	27.81	10.93	14.78	3.74
Mar, 1940	11.99	8.55	66.30	39.61	31.05	9.95	15.15	4.13
May, "	11.22	8.24	58.34	39.10	28.62	9.60	15.11	4.16
June, "	11.80	8.41	65.31	39.12	28.52	9.50	15.02	4.15
July, "	12.18	8.72	68.37	39.66	28.61	9.51	14.95	4.08

Conspicuous in the foregoing table is the expansion in employment in the industrial metals industries (to the highest level on record) and in the chemical^{etc.} and textile and clothing industries, reflecting activity in the production of war materials. All of the groups listed showed greater employment than in July, 1939 with the exception of wood-working, furniture, etc. factories.

Sales from 42 large factories in June, 1940 (£3.08m.) exceeded in value those of any preceding June, and in the half-year ended June amounted to £20.4m. in 1940 compared with £18.26m. in 1939; an increase of 11.7 per cent. Employment in these factories in June was not quite as great as prior to the coal stoppage but was 3½ per cent. greater than in June, 1939. Overtime work was a factor in the increase of 11.4 per cent. in the weekly amount of salaries and wages paid in comparison with June of last year.

PART III. (Continued.)

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES - NEW SOUTH WALES.

All Factories.		Forty-two Large Factories.					
July.		Month of June.			January to June. (Monthly Average).		
Employment.		Sales.	Employ- ees.	Wages Paid Weekly.	Sales.	Employ- ees.	Wages Paid Weekly.
Number.	Index No.						
1928-29=		£000	000	£000	£000	000	£000
180,756	100						
1932 139,200	77	1,823	13.9	50.1	2,006	14.1	51.7
1937 216,400	120	2,958	22.4	86.8	2,936	22.1	83.8
1938 225,200	125	2,935	23.6	94.7	3,107	23.3	94.1
1939 224,600	124	3,013	22.8	92.7	3,043	23.0	94.9
1940 239,900	133	3,083	23.6	103.3	3,401	23.5	100.3

June, 1933.

BUILDING PERMITS - METROPOLIS.

NOTE: Government buildings are not included.

After some recovery private building appears fairly steady at a level some 20% lower than in the middle months of 1938. In recent months the features were continued lag in city building, rather higher totals for houses, some revival of flat building and further contraction of non-residential building.

Provision of new housing is less than in 1938 or 1939, mainly in flats, though houses have also decreased about 10%. Dwellings proposed in July (and Jan.-July) numbered 748 (5177) in 1940 and 1223 (6315) in 1939.

Building permits granted in Sydney and suburbs in July, 1940 (£1,048,000) were slightly above the monthly average for the preceding quarter, but were much below the unusually high totals in July 1938 or 1939. Recovery from the initial war time decline has been appreciable and permits appear fairly steady at a level about 20 per cent. lower than in the middle quarters of 1938. Monthly figures for private building permits compare as under:-

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May.</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
	Value of permits granted (£000).						
1938	905	899	1303	1256	1292	1160	1741
1939	864	999	993	932	1028	1270	1522
1940	699	755	870	1041	979	960	1048

Contracts were accepted in July 1940 for Government buildings in the Metropolis for £174,000, compared with £37,000 in July, 1939.

One job (an hotel alteration - £153,000) caused an increase in city permits in July but in the seven months the city total was only one-third that of Jan.-July, 1938. In July suburban permits totalled less than in any of the preceding three months but were 17 per cent. above the average for the first six war months. There was a decrease of 12 per cent. comparing the seven months of this and last year.

/PERMITS GRANTED.....

PART III. (Continued.)

PERMITS GRANTED FOR PRIVATE BUILDINGS - SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

		Month of July.					Seven Months ended July.				
		1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
City	£000	134	378	731	370	236	1440	1530	2199	1226	724
Suburbs	£000	840	619	1010	1152	812	4427	4402	6337	6381	5627
Total	£000	974	997	1741	1522	1048	5867	5932	8536	7607	6351

Throughout the war period housebuilding has been better sustained than other classes of building. Wooden and fibro houses received a fillip in June Qr. because of the Government scheme to assist persons in the lower income groups to acquire homes, but the original appropriation for this purpose is apparently exhausted. Brick houses, the erection of which is now financed mainly by private arrangements continue strongly; the value in July, 1940 was greatest of the war months. Since the war the cost of housebuilding has increased at least 10 per cent. Values of permits for houses were:-

		<u>Sept.</u> <u>Qr.</u> £000	<u>Dec.</u> <u>Qr.</u> £000	<u>Mar.</u> <u>Qr.</u> £000	<u>Apr.</u> £000	<u>May</u> £000	<u>June</u> £000	<u>July</u> £000
<u>Brick &c.</u>	1938 & '39	1359	1080	1087	272	389	469	489
	1939 & '40	1273	987	1061	402	381	388	465
<u>Wood &c.</u>	1938 & '39	267	223	223	60	107	94	103
	1939 & '40	254	180	147	171	155	64	57

The value of permits granted in July and Jan.-July distributed according to class of building is shown comparatively in the appended table. A material falling-off for all classes other than houses and hotels is apparent. Although in the last three months the monthly average value for new flats was 65 per cent. greater than in the six months ended March, 1940 it was still about 40 per cent. less than in the corresponding three months of 1939. Percentage movements for the seven months' periods ended July are given at foot of table.

VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS GRANTED - SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

Period.	Houses.		Flats. (a)	Hotels, Guest Houses.	Shops. (b)	Factor- ies. (c)	Offices, Theatres etc.	Total.
	Brick, &c.	Wood, Fibro.						
Value in Thousands of Pounds.								
July, 1938	473	89	382	40	72	84	601	1741
" 1939	489	103	480	18	31	149	252	1522
June, 1940	388	60	235	52	44	105	76	960
July, "	465	57	180	174	9	71	92	1048
Jan.-July, 1938	2932	502	2031	389	356	625	1701	8536
" 1939	2706	587	1912	300	272	851	979	7607
" 1940	2697	590	1242	459	205	529	629	6351
Movement 7 mths, '39 to '40.	-0.3%	+0.5%	-35.0%	+53.0%	-24.6%	-37.8%	-35.8%	-16.5%

Includes (a) conversion to flats (b) shops with dwellings
(c) public garages.

DWELLINGS. The number of net additional dwellings proposed in July, 1940 was 748, compared with 1,223 and 1,264 in July, 1939 and 1938, respectively, all types showing decreases, new flat dwellings of 321 in comparison with July, 1939. Details for the seven months ended

/July.....

PART III. (Continued.)

July are given below. The number for the period was 18 and 27 per cent. smaller this year than one and two years ago. Of the decrease of 1,138 from 1939 to 1940, 870 was in respect of new flat dwellings.

METROPOLITAN AREA - PERMITS TO ERECT BUILDINGS CONTAINING DWELLINGS.

Type of Dwelling.	Seven months ended July.				
	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
	Number of Dwellings.				
Houses - Brick, etc.	2124	1850	2802	2584	2446
Wood, Fibro, etc.	496	568	942	1054	985
<u>Totals - Houses</u>	2620	2418	3744	3638	3431
Flats - In new flat buildings	1963	1673	3184	2589	1719
" converted "	207	277	270	184	154
With shops, hotels, etc.	99	79	127	98	65
<u>Total, Flats, etc.</u>	2269	2029	3581	2871	1938
Grand Total	4889	4447	7325	6509	5369
<u>Less</u> Demolitions & Conversions	184	266	207	194	192
Net Additional Dwellings	4705	4181	7118	6315	5177

The annual rate (8,875) of the first seven months of 1940 was below actual totals for 1938 and 1939 and 10 per cent. less than in 1929 but was very much above the average in the depression years:-

NUMBER OF DWELLINGS INCLUDED IN PERMITS - SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

	Calendar Year					Jan.-July	
	1929.	Average 1930-34.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1939.	1940.
Individual Houses	7,095	1,205	4,852	6,342	5,847	3,638	3,431
In Flats, with shops, etc.	3,097	656	3,900	5,821	4,290	2,871	1,938
Net Total ϕ	9,854	1,839	8,490	11,853	9,822	6,315	5,177

ϕ After deducting demolitions and conversions.

MOTOR VEHICLES. In July, 1940 sales of new motor vehicles (averaging 123 a week) had fallen to less than one fifth the number in 1937 and were numerically only about 30 per cent. of those in July, 1939:-

AVERAGE NUMBER OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED PER WEEK, N.S.W. ϕ

	Cars, Cabs and Omnibuses.						Lorries and Vans.					
	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July
1937	456	526	452	423	497	451	159	138	162	187	218	202
1938	470	505	478	487	383	357	184	177	182	207	155	156
1939	505	435	393	417	376	305	127	131	130	151	141	133
1940	333	268	243	176	115	63	110	106	114	103	70	60

ϕ Exclusive of military and Air Force vehicles.

Reactions to the war, increased motor taxes, higher prices of petrol, oils and accessories, reduced quotas for motor vehicle imports from non-sterling countries, and latterly, rationing proposals are factors. The Chamber of Automotive Industries has agreed to suspend /imports.....

Part III. (Contd.)

imports of motor cars and car chassis between September 1 and June 1, 1940-41 (except the few already on order) "to protect the value of stocks on hand, to prevent a further inflow of vehicles until stocks on hand are reduced, and to protect the price structure of new and used vehicles." Associated Motor Transport has recommended its members to "refrain from purchasing new vehicles for two years in order to save dollar exchange."

Revised plans for petrol rationing were announced on Aug.16 and are expected to operate from Oct. 1, 1940. The allowance to private users (320-350 miles a month) is double that originally proposed. Approximate annual mileages attainable under the ration scales are:-

<u>CARS.</u>	<u>Private.</u>	<u>Private and business or business only.</u>			<u>Special business.</u>
Last year's mileage	To 6,000x	6001- 8500	8,501- 12,000	Over 12,000	-
Ration	4,000	4,500	7,000	10,000	Up to 15,000

x. Private and business.

<u>COMMERCIAL VEHICLES.</u>	<u>Ration Allowance.</u>		<u>Ration Allowance.</u>
Farm Vehicles	4,000	Sand and tipping trucks	9,000
Tradesmen's delivery	5,000	Hire and Reward carriers	9,000 to 12,000
City and sub'n parcels delivery; wholesalers &c.	7,500	In special cases	Up to 15,000

At 31st July, 1940 the number of cars on the register was 9,506 less, and of lorries and vans 2,328 less than a year earlier. There were decreases of 2,789 and 652, respectively, in July, 1940. Trends may be noted in the appended table:-

NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

	1933.	1938.	1939.		1940.			
	July	July.	July.	Dec.	Apr.	May.	June	July.
			Thousands.					
Cars	148.2	205.2	216.2	216.4	213.6	211.9	209.5	206.7
Lorries and Vans	42.2	73.1	77.3	77.5	76.4	76.1	75.6	75.0
All Vehicles	216.5	311.5	328.3	328.6	323.5	321.2	318.2	314.4

COAL. The number of men employed in collieries in New South Wales in July, 1940 (17,100) was greatest of the past eleven years and 400 greater than in July, 1939. The mines were busy raising coal to replenish stocks depleted during the stoppage of March-May and the amount of coal carried over the State railways in July (895,000 tons) was a record for any month.

Reviewing the Full Court's award (which was the occasion of the recent stoppage) the Chief Judge of the Arbitration Court rejected the Unions' claim for a uniform 40 hours week, but granted higher wages and other benefits (e.g. payment for crib time) to sections of the industry. The miners' leaders were dissatisfied with the revised award and have interviewed the Prime Minister who stated that Cabinet would consider the question of co-operation in coal production for the war effort.

/Certain.....

PART III. (Continued.)

Certain statistical data are given below. The collieries dispute affected railway haulage figures in 1940. Particulars of the movement of coal by sea to other States and abroad are not available for publication.

COAL MINING INDUSTRY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

	Coal Hauled on Government Railways.		Coal Raised(a)	Men Employed in Collieries.(b)	
	July.	Jan.-July.	Calendar year.	June	July
	000 tons.	000 tons.	000 tons.	No.	No.
1928	585	3,671	9,448	21,700(c)	21,700(c)
1937	663	4,236	10,052	14,100	14,200
1938	763	4,666	9,571	15,600	15,700
1939	763	4,951	11,196	16,300	16,700
1940	895(d)	3,344(d)	...	16,900	17,100

(a) Average, 1923-27: 11,100,000 tons. (b) Average, 1927: 24,500.
(c) Yearly average. (d) Approximate.

GAS AND ELECTRICITY. The amount of gas and electricity sold in Sydney and suburbs in July, 1940 was a record for any month and 32 per cent. greater than in July, 1929 (before the depression). The weather in July was very cold in 1939 and relatively mild in 1940 and the increase of 3 per cent. comparing those months may be attributed to the higher level of industrial activity, particularly in the production of war materials. (see Manufacturing - supra.) In addition to industrial development, the growth of population, wider reticulation, and greater use of power machinery in commercial and home operations contributed to the increase in consumption in comparison with earlier years.

INDEX OF CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY - SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

1929. 1932. 1936. 1937. 1938. 1939. 1940.

Index Numbers: Average 1929-31 = 100.

Month of July	105	97	112	122	126	134	139
Calendar Year	105	96	112	119	123	131	

WIRELESS LICENSES. In July, 1940 Broadcast Listeners' Licenses in force in New South Wales increased by 16,073 to 474,228. This exceptional increase (compared with 943 in July, 1939 and 1,366 in July, 1938) may be attributable to a campaign of enforcement, and prosecution of unlicensed users of receiving sets in country towns. The increase during the year ended July, 1940 was 40,244 compared with 28,728 in the preceding corresponding twelve months. The numbers of licenses current at various dates were as follow:-

BROADCAST LISTENERS' LICENSES IN FORCE IN NEW SOUTH WALES. (Including Australian Capital Territory.)

	<u>1932.</u>	<u>1934.</u>	<u>1936.</u>	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1939.</u>	<u>1940.</u>
	Thousands.					
At 31st July.	144.8	238.2	322.6	405.2	433.9	474.2
Increase in year ended July.	22.8	56.3	42.4	40.5	28.7	40.2